(c) A copy of the orders is placed on the table. (*Vide Appendix I.*) These were issued by order of the Diwan.

(d) The amount collected in 1101 came to Rs. 1,335-2-10; in 1102 it amounts now to Rs. 1,198-1-3.

(e) Vide answer to 1 above.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Are there any special orders for this deputation which was in connection with the endorsement made by the Secretary?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—When it was found that he could attend to this work without prejudice to his own duties, in the treasury he was deputed for one month.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—My question is whether any officer had been deputed. I referred to the appendix. That is a letter from the Commissioner. I wish to know whether there is any order deputing anybody.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—He used to attend to this work for the last so many years. No other orders were necessary. He used to do the work.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—These are reasons. I want to know whether there was any specific order issued to him to be on deputation for this work.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There was a specific order sanctioning his deputation and placing him on deputation.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—When was that order passed?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That order is dated 26th February 1927.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know what is that order?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—"Mr. E. Sankara Menon, Head shroff of the Cochin-Kanayannur Treasury, will be considered to be on special deputation for the period of 6th Dhanu 1102 to 6th Makaram 1102, both days inclusive".

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—That is after the event. Is there any order before his deputation? This order is after he did his work as officer on deputation. Was there any order appointing him to be on deputation before he actually did his work?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There was no specific order.

493. Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will the Government be pleased to answer the following:—

did the Government authorise any officer in the Taluk Office, Ernakulam, for the purpose of collecting subscriptions from the public towards the expenses of the *utsavam* and fire-works of Ernakulam temple; are the Government aware that one of the staff of Ernakulam Taluk Office was collecting such subscriptions for the recent *utsavam* and fire-works; for how many days, if any, was he out of office on this duty:

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were subscription lists circulated by Heads of Departments in all the various public offices of the State with the object of collecting money for the above purpose; what was the total amount of money collected, if any, in all the departments together and what was the amount, if any, collected by the officer of the Taluk Office?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No officer was authorised to collect the subscriptions towards the expenses of the *utsavam* in the Ernakulam temple. E. Sankara Menon, the Head shroff of the Cochin-Kanayannur Treasury, was deputed in accordance with a longstanding practice, to collect subscriptions and arrange for fire-works. He was on special duty on this account from 6th Dhanu to 11th Makaram 1102.

Government are not aware of any such circulation of subscription lists by Heads of Departments in the various public offices. As for the amounts of money collected, please vide the latter part of the answer to question 492 (d) above.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—First part of the answer. The two portions of the answer appear to be contradictory. Was the Head shroff deputed without authorising him to collect?

President.—His action was not unauthorised. There was a practice of collecting subscriptions for a very long time and, during the Diwanship of Sir Rajagopalachari, he wanted to put a stop to it; but, on the representation of a number of people, he allowed this practice, and it was continued up to the present date. Only one person has been placed on deputation, and no authorization is necessary.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—It means he was authorised to collect.

President.—In accordance with that longstanding practice, he had the authority to collect.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Is the Government aware that subscription lists were circulated to various Heads of Departments?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Government are not aware of any such circulation of subscription lists to the various Heads of Departments.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—So, am I to understand that no money was collected from any of the public offices?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Subscriptions were collected only from offices situated in Mattancheri, Ernakulam and Trippunittura.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Were not collections made by the circulation of subscription lists?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The lists used to be sent to the Heads of Offices, and they returned them with the amounts collected.

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